

16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

To whom it may concern,

Re: Submission in relation to the Independent review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and Surrogacy Act

Although these updates may never really affect me personally. (unless I find the need to go through surrogacy in the future). I feel the importance to have these laws updated to reflect current times and to match our current social views.

I have two best friends who are super excited to start a family and would love nothing more than to become dads!

I have seen them both as loving, caring, guiding, fun and supportive caregivers whether it's with their own brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, godchildren or children of other friends and family. They have an unconditional love between the 2 of them and over the time they have known each other, their relationship has only gotten stronger and having a family was always a top priority to them both

They recently shared the process with us and the costs involved and I just can't fathom needing to spend that amount of money to have a child! With costs up to and over \$250,000 it seems Un-reachable for them and saddens me that they have so many road blocks and hurdles to get over just to start a family.

There seems to be little support for them here in W.A. and going overseas for the process is just too expensive for them. This would also mean they would have to move away from the huge support base of family and friends back home which I feel is unfair and unjustified to not be able to share so many special moments together with them

Through updating the laws I hope to see people like my best friends be able to go through a surrogacy process here in W.A. that is cost effective for them starting out a family, sees them supported by not only their family and loved ones during this exciting and emotional time but well educated agencies/bodies and brings W.A. not only in line with other states in Australia but leading the way with nondiscriminatory laws and processes.

Yours sincerely



Belinda Stewart

